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SUBJECT: CZECH STATEMENT ON IRAN MISSILE LAUNCH

REF: WARSAW 1004

Czech Defense Minister Martin Bartak told the press on September 29 that the Czech government considers the recent tests of Iranian Shahab-3 and Sedjil missiles a serious threat to Israel and southeast Europe. Noting that these missile tests occurred shortly after Iran admitted to building new underground facilities for enriching uranium, Bartak stated that "this approach is destabilizing for the Middle East and provokes serious concern." The Czech government also released an official statement on September 29, which follows below.

Begin statement:

Iran's recent missile tests only confirm doubts over the advanced development of the Iranian missile program. The Sahab-3 and Sejil missiles with a flight range of 1,300 to 2,000 km represent potential serious threats not only for Israel, but also southeast Europe. These tests took place shortly after Iran acknowledged the existence of a second nuclear facility, the purpose of which is very questionable. This approach is destabilizing for the Middle East; it is also a reason for grave concern and must lead to a strong coordinated process that would encourage Iran to respect its international commitments.

End of the Czech government's statement.
Thompson-Jones